

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SCA-01 PPT-02 VO-03

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TO USMISSION NATO

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 117463

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CPAS, LY, AG

SUBJECT: LIBYAN PASSPORT PROBLEM

REFS: NATO 2875, TRIPOLI 794

1. DEPT SEES NO NEED AT THIS TIME TO MODIFY OUR POSITION
REGARDING LIBYAN PASSPORT POLICY, PARTICULARLY WHILE EMBASSY
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TRIPOLI IS AWAITING CLARIFICATION OF QADHAFI'S STATEMENT IN INTERVIEW WITH AL AHAM. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE NATO PARTNERS SHOULD CONTINUE TO STAND FIRM.

2. FOREGOING VIEW ALSO BASED ON FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS:

A) AS POINTED OUT BY UK REP, THERE IS NO ASSURANCE THAT LARG WILL AGREE TO FRENCH RUBBER STAMP PROCEDURE, DESPITE QADHAFI'S "CONGRATULATIONS" TO AMBASSADOR GEORGY, (TRIPOLI REFTEL). EVEN IF LARG CONCURS, IT MAY WELL RETURN TO PREVIOUS DEMAND FOR AUTHENTICATED TRANSLATION, OR THAT PASSPORTS INCLUDE ARABIC ALONG WITH NATIONAL LANGUAGE, ONCE DIKE HAS BEEN BREACHED.

B) COMPROMISE SUCH AS THAT NOW BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THE FRENCH CREATES UNFORTUNATE INTERNATIONAL PRECEDENT.

C) ANY COMPROMISES ON THIS ISSUE SHOULD INCLUDE REQUIREMENT FOR LIBYAN RECIPROCITY.

3. RECENT US EXPERIENCE ALSO SUGGESTS THAT MOST BUSINESSMEN ARE BEING ADMITTED, WHILE PROBLEMS REMAIN FOR SOME DEPENDENTS AND DIPLOMATS. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING IF A DIPLOMAT FROM ANY OTHER COUNTRY WITH SINGLE LANGUAGE IN PASSPORT HAS ATTEMPTED TO TEST APPLICATION OF QADHAFI STATEMENT IN AL AHAM INTERVIEW.

4. SINCE FRENCH HAVE ALREADY INSTITUTED NEW PROCEDURE, WE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING THEIR EXPERIENCE AND EXTENT TO WHICH IT IS BEING USED. PORTER

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